

## Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/030 W

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R 102115Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2295

UNCLAS LA PAZ 7197

DEPT PASS INTERIOR BUREAU OF MINES AND USGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BECN, BL

SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY OF MONMETALLIC POTENTIAL OF  
BOLIVIAN ALTIPLANO SALARS.

1. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THE BOLIVIAN CABINET APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES TO HAVE A COMPLETE STUDY DONE OF THE NONMETALLIC MINERAL POTENTIAL IN BOLIVIAN'S ALTIPLANO SALT LAKES (SALARS). THIS WAS PROMPTED BY DISCOVERY OF HIGH LITHIUM AND POTASSIUM VALUES IN THE SALAR DE UYUNI (SEE STATE 152773). OTHER NONMETALLICS KNOWN TO EXIST IN SALARS ARE SODIUM CARBONATE, SODIUM SULPHATE, BORAX, ULEXITE AND MAGNESIUM.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 12 TWO GEOLOGISTS FROM U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ARRIVE IN BOLIVIAN AT REQUEST OF GOB TO UNDERTAKE A SYSTEMATIC SAMPLING PROGRAM IN SALAR DE UYUNI TO BETTER EVALUATE LITHIUM RESOURCES. GEOLOGISTS FROM LITHIUM CORP OF AMERICA AND FOOTE MINERAL CO. WILL ALSO BE PRESENT AS OBSERVERS.

3. MINISTRY OF MINES ESTIMATES THAT COSTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE \$ 1 MILLION AND IS LOOKING FOR FINANCING FOR THE STUDY.

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4. THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. MINING CONSULTING

COMPANIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN DOING FEASIBILITY STUDIES  
OF NONMETALLIC MINERAL POTENTIAL. THOSE COMPANIES  
ABLE TO ASSIST WITH FINANCING WILL HAVE A DISTINCT  
ADVANTAGE. PROCEDURE FOR REGISTERING AS CONSULTING FIRM  
IN BOLIVIA WAS EXPLAINED IN RELATION TO OTHER PROJECT  
IN LA PAZ CABLE 6630.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC, IN CONSULTATION WITH BUREAU  
OF MINES, IS ASKED TO CONTACT A FEW WELL KNOWN COMPANIES  
WITH EXPERIENCE IN NONMETALLICS AND URGE THEM TO WRITE  
DIRECTLY TO ING. ARMANDO DE URIOSTE, SUBSECRETARIO,  
MINISTERIO DE MINAS, AV 16 DE JULIO 1769, LA PAZ, BOLIVIA.  
CABLE MINMINERIA. COPIES OF ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD  
BE SENT TO MINERAL'S ATTANCH, AMERICAN EMBASSY, APO NEW YORK  
09867. EMBASSY LIMA IS AKED TO PLEASE PASS THIS CABLE  
TO PATRICIO CASTRO, GARRETT RESEARCH, TEL. 414212.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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